

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Battle with AIDS brings Missouri Baptist woman heartache, hope

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — A career in theater, getting married, having a child — those were the dreams Carrie Peter had as she graduated from high school in 1985 and went away to college. Those dreams were shattered when she learned five years ago she was infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The Missouri Baptist young woman has not yet contracted one of the 23 life-threatening opportunistic diseases — such as pneumocystis carinii or kaposi's sarcoma — that signal full-blown AIDS. But she is sick practically every day with the effects of other infections her damaged immune system cannot fight off.

She is affected financially as well as physically. Upon graduation from college, she was declared disabled. Because she was never able to hold a job and pay into Social Security, her disability income is minimal. She receives some additional assistance in the form of food stamps and Medicaid. At age 25, she still has to call on her parents to help with unmet expenses.

The cost of two prescription drugs, DDC and AZT, which she takes to slow the depletion of her immune system's T-lymphocytes, is \$1,000 per month. So far, her medical expenses have been covered by insurance, but there is no guarantee her insurance won't eventually be canceled.

Speaking recently to a group of teen-age 4-H Club members from Missouri and neighboring states, Peter openly acknowledged unless a cure for AIDS is found soon, she is facing an early death.

But along with the shattered dreams, daily struggles, shared heartaches, and fears about the future, Carrie Peter spoke of the hope she has. It is the hope of heaven and the hope she can help others avoid the tragedy she now is living.

To many people, Peter would seem an unlikely candidate for AIDS. Growing up in Jefferson City, Mo., she was raised in a religious family, she accepted Christ as a girl in elementary school, she was active in the youth group and drama team of her home church, First Baptist in Jefferson City. Even now, on one AIDS "risk test" she took — on which scores of 11 and up were considered high risk — Carrie scored only 8.

The man she was sexually involved with during college — a man she was planning to marry — had not told her of his past sexual contacts, she said.

She received a telephone call after donating blood in December 1987. When the caller said her blood had tested positive for HIV, Peter's first thought was there had been a mistake — a clerical error. But two subsequent tests confirmed the presence of the virus. The boyfriend also tested positive.

Having learned a hard lesson from her own tragedy, she now urges teens to abstain from sexual relations until they are married. Monogamy, she emphasized to the 4-H'ers, "doesn't mean one person at a time; it means one person for the rest of your life."

Condoms are not 100% fail-safe, she pointed out. Even with a condom, according to one source, a

person having sex with an HIV-infected person has a one-in-six chance of contracting the virus.

Engaging in unprotected sex is not a way to demonstrate love for a boyfriend or girlfriend, she said. "You have to learn to love yourself enough to protect yourself.... We're talking about life and death here."

Peter urges young people who have put themselves at risk to have themselves tested for HIV. If HIV infection goes undetected until an opportunistic disease has already struck, the chances of successful life-extending treatment are greatly diminished.

Peter also emphasized the need to show compassion for people with AIDS, no matter how they contracted the disease, and the need to offer a message of hope to those who are facing death without Christ.

She has sought to share that message through her personal testimony and also by distributing copies of a brochure, "Why Me?" published by Scripture Gift Mission of London. The brochure contains Scriptures that address the reality of suffering, the compassion of Christ, and the forgiveness available through him. She has placed copies of the brochure in places such as doctors' offices and pharmacies, and has shared them with members of her support group. One friend in the support group accepted Christ because of the brochure's message.

So many people wait until they are in a perilous situation to work on their relationship with God, Peter observed. "We need to work on it every day."



Yao project becomes model

Southern Baptist missionary Steve Evans, from Seattle, Wash., and Jameson Mwenyeheri, a member of the Yao tribe, baptize eight new Christians from Maudzu, Malawi, Mwenyeheri's village. Mwenyeheri became a Christian the year before and began a Bible study. It became the Maudzu Baptist Fellowship, which grew from four to 35 Yao members in one year. Mwenyeheri and Evans play a key role in the Yao Outreach Project, which has had such good results the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will make it a model for similar projects in other areas. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

Green Alert

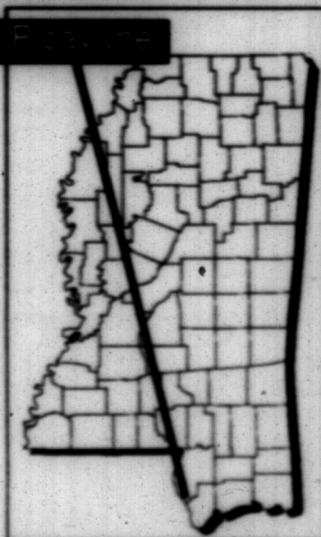
Each of the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union is now struggling to develop a free market economy. In 1992, the Foreign Mission Board launched a special and comprehensive emphasis, called Green Alert, to focus on the Commonwealth of Independent States. An all-age Sunday School project based in Odessa is producing Bible study materials for people eager to hear God's Word. Church planting efforts among unreached peoples last year yielded 22 church starts in Siberia and Central Asia.

Halfway round the world, some missionaries chose to evacuate the Liberian capital of Monrovia last November because of intensified fighting around that city.

Peace accords in nearby Angola and subsequent election results there have been threatened by fighting between the ruling MPLA and UNITA forces. While two missionary families have chosen to leave Angola, the Curtis Dixons have opted to remain and are in Luanda, the capital city, as of November 1992.

25th Anniversary

Flat Top Church, Picayune (Pearl River Association) will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a revival, April 30-May 2. Services April 30 and May 1 will begin at 7 p.m.; on May 2, 11 a.m. Carl Myers of Poplarville will be the guest speaker; Michael Ball of Poplarville will provide music. There will be a covered dish meal in the fellowship hall following the Sunday morning service, an afternoon sing, and a reading of the church history. J. David Caves is pastor.



Briefly...

Video available

February 21 has been designated Baptist Seminaries and Colleges Day. A video highlighting our Mississippi Baptist colleges is available from the Education Commission to help churches observe this special emphasis day. To obtain a copy of the video, or for more information, contact Frank Harmon, chairman of the Education Commission, at First Baptist Church, Newton, 307 East Church Street, Newton, MS 39345, phone (601) 683-2066.

Appointments

Contrary to rumors, the Foreign Mission Board continues to appoint missionaries in all categories — not just full-time evangelists. Medical, educational, student missionaries, among others, are still needed and are being appointed. In 1991, 77% of missionaries were appointed to evangelism posts, and 23% to lay-type work.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Is America tired of family values?

Churches, political parties, welfare workers, and school teachers have all used the term "family values" quite often. Are we talking about the same thing? Murphy Brown meant one thing; Dan Quayle, another.

The lifestyle of Hollywood is portrayed as the "norm" for America. The "anything goes" mentality regarding sexuality, violence, and prime time entertainment brings forth predictable results.

A reporter recently wrote that she was "tired" of hearing about family values and urged her readers to move on to things more meaningful.

There are more causes to the decline in family values than just Hollywood, but it is the most visible cause.

Recently, Newsweek carried the results of a survey of 104 top television writers and executives. It revealed that their attitudes toward morality and religion aren't shared by viewers across America. The survey also revealed that 49% of Hollywood groups said adultery is wrong, while 85% of mainstream Americans say it is wrong.

In Hollywood, 45% have no religious affiliation, compared with 4% of Americans who say the same. Only 20% of the Hollywood writers/executives say homosexual acts are wrong, compared with 76% nationwide. On the issue of abortion, 97% believe in a woman's right to an abortion; 59% in the rest of the nation reflected the same belief. This gap in opinion accounts for the slant on family issues from Out West.

God is the best authority on family life, and has revealed his will for the family. The Bible is a great marriage manual — the institution of the family begins in Genesis. Through the Old Testament we find a high regard for family values — loyalty, discipline, moral teaching, and accountability. Marriage is seen as a sacred union and a commitment, children are gifts from the Lord, and honoring parents, care for the elderly, and respect for your neighbors are all taught therein.

James Dobson, of Focus on the Family ministry, has compiled a profile of the 21st century family as seen by Time magazine and

other sources. The family as we know it will die. Time claims the family will have been nothing more than "a mere blip in human history." Multiple marriages or "serial monogamy" will replace the nuclear family. "Sunset clauses" will be in many marriage contracts, allowing the marriages to automatically terminate at a given time.

Many women will live with other women in "Golden Girls" type situations. Children will be passed around among relatives, and incest will no longer be taboo.

Many homeless boys and girls will roam our streets, and will be increasingly victimized.

Such is the secular world's vision for the coming century.

The Christian home and the church stand in direct opposition to such New Age philosophy. Biblical teaching and righteous living by parents will be the major bulwark against the apocalyptic predictions spelled out by Time and Hollywood. There has always been a remnant, but we would do well to emphasize family values today.

"IF I EVER DECIDE TO RUN AWAY, IT'LL BE ON A SUNDAY MORNING WHEN WE'RE TRYING TO GET READY FOR CHURCH!"



Legislative bills address many issues

By Paul Griffin Jones, II

The 1993 Mississippi legislature has begun the process of creating the future laws of Mississippi. On Jan. 5, the legislature assembled for 90 days of introductions, debating, and compromise along with numerous parties, meetings, and lobbyists. While the future of the state is supposed to be the primary focus of the proposed legislation, most of the bills attempt to modify the existing structure of government and society.

Over 2,500 bills had been introduced prior to the last week of January. Most of the proposed laws will be run through a legislative maze before being killed or allowed to die under numerous legislatively imposed deadlines. A small portion of the legislation will be passed out and, when signed by the governor, become law. Many of the new laws will benefit special interest groups who will have spent much time and money in assuring the passage of the legislation.

The following bills were culled by the Christian Action Commission staff from the several thousand bills already before the legislature. Persons who wish additional information on any of the bills can contact the Christian Action Commission at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or by calling the Com-

mission at (601) 968-3800. Persons wishing to communicate with legislators can write them at Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215 or call the legislature at (601) 359-3770.

Abortion

House Bill (HB) 332 would require that all abortion facilities be located at least 1,500 feet from a church or school. This addresses a specific problem on the Gulf Coast but would provide protection for churches and schools across the state. Recommendation: Support.

Alcohol

HB 78 and HB 102 would revise portions of the alcohol beverage laws to prohibit open containers of alcohol in all motor vehicles. This would make drinking while driving illegal and prosecutable, and is a much needed law. Recommendation: Support.

HB 112 is the "Alcohol Boating Safety Act" and would allow the regulation of boat operators in the same manner as automobile drivers. DUI/DWI tests would be allowed on boat operators. This testing is needed to allow adequate enforcement on public waters. Recommendation: Support.

Children

HB 117 would terminate parental rights for conviction of a sex crime on the child. Children

need to be protected from any persons who would sexually abuse them. Recommendation: Support.

HB 149 would make the charge of gratification of lust apply to all victimized children under the age of 18. Recommendation: Support.

HB 446 would prohibit the employment by a child care provider of any person convicted of a sex crime. This prohibition would make legal common sense and is needed. Recommendation: Support.

Senate Bill (SB) 2216 would require mandatory post-divorce counseling for children. This could assist children with adjusting to a undesirable situation. Recommendation: Support.

Divorce

HB 91 and HB 299 would add an additional grounds for divorce, "irreconcilable differences," as a thirteenth ground for divorce. This would provide another way to get out of a marriage. When will marriage and not divorce be strengthened by law? Recommendation: Oppose.

Gambling

HB 359, HB 364, HB 365, and HB 366 would legalize pari-mutuel gambling on dog and horse races. This is a further attempt to make Mississippi the gambling (See BILLS on page 9)

Running out of closets

Never judge a book by its cover, nor measure a man by the cut of his clothes. David wore the crude clothes of a herdsman. Goliath was immaculately tailored in his uniform. Note how some Somalians wear their rags with a certain dignity.

In the olden days few homes in our neighborhood had clothes closets. Mama had a chiffon robe for the finest articles of clothing.

There was a nail on the back of each door for the hanging of other clothes. If company was coming, you draped a towel over the sagging coat hangers.

Now we have huge closets covering whole walls or even walk-in closets for every room. I naturally look for a nail, not a clothes hanger, when told to hang up something.

We have at least nine clothes closets in our home, and the wife has commandeered eight of those and is eyeing mine. We have four married children and most of them still have a "few things" hanging in one closet of our house. It favors the middle rack at the Goodwill Center.

My brother and I once built a clothes closet for Mama. She wanted half of it designed for quilts. Mama measured wealth in terms of quilts and her marriage

counseling always ended with "have plenty of quilts." In her later years she used an electric blanket to satisfy her children, but she would spread two quilts on top of the electric blanket. She also used "county pins" for bed spreads.

For years, I thought this name had something to do with Smith County politics. In college I discovered the Brits had used "counterpanes" for centuries. Anyhow, we built a one-of-a-kind closet with a 20-quilt capacity.

When I was a lad we wore distinctive clothes. We had school clothes, work clothes, and Sunday clothes, and we dared not get them mixed up. It bothered me exceedingly to realize a person could look at my clothes and not only tell where I had been but knew what day it was. Even now there is a twinge of caution whenever I put on a Sunday suit to wear to work.

Now for the biblical reminder: Paul told the Colossians (3:8-10) "to put off (as a person would cast off a worn-out garment) anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth... and put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him."

Not bad advice, closets not withstanding. — GH

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FMB trustees chairman decries WMU decision

FAIRFIELD, Calif. (ABP) — The decision by Woman's Missionary Union to work with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is like committing adultery, according to John Jackson, trustee chairman of the Foreign Mission Board.

"That's the way it's going to look to the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board," Jackson told Associated Baptist Press Jan. 26.

Those trustees have asked WMU leaders to attend the trustees' Feb. 8 meeting in Richmond, Va., to discuss the decision, Jackson said. The chairman added he is hopeful leaders of the two organizations can smooth over their differences at the meeting.

Before the WMU plan was announced, Jackson told a Chattanooga, Tenn., newspaper that opening the door to the Fellowship — a group of Southern Baptists opposed to the current conservative direction of the SBC — would be tantamount to adultery.

"When they've done that, it will be similar to... a woman having

been married to a man for many, many years and all of a sudden she says, 'I have another man that I want to be married to as well. I know that we've had such a good working relationship, but I know that you won't mind if I bring him into our bed,'" he told the Chattanooga News-Free Press.

"Their attitude is, 'Why can't we have both bedfellows. We don't see anything wrong with us going to bed with CBF as well as SBC.'"

Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of WMU, called Jackson's use of the adultery analogy "unfortunate." "There are too many lost people in this world for us to spend our energies calling each other names when there is a Great Commission mandate yet to be fulfilled," she told ABP.

"If an analogy must be used, it would be more appropriate to use one of friendship," she added. "When I have friends who disagree, I don't take sides. I can be friends with both of them, even if they're not friends with each other."

"Slipped disk" is more than backache to RTVC

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Some of the almost 900 radio stations that carry the Radio and Television Commission's program "Powerline" may be in for a rude awakening unless they heed warnings issued by the Southern Baptist agency.

A few of the stations may find the compact disc labeled with the name of the popular program and marked "for airing the week beginning Feb. 5" actually contains material they don't want to put on the air, according to Ed Malone, vice president for radio for the commission.

Because of a labeling machine mixup in a subcontractor's shop in Michigan, the disc marked "Powerline" may contain a rock album, "Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables" by a group called Dead Kennedys.

The album is "vulgar, highly offensive" and "not anything we would ever play on any program," according to Malone. "In our opinion," he added, "the language on this album is obscene and we

would hope that it would not be played on any radio station."

"Our 'fail-safe' quality and delivery controls call for us to be mailed a copy of each album as if we were a radio station," said Malone. "But before we could play our control copy, we had already had a call from a station manager to alert us to the mistake."

"As soon as we found out about the error," said Malone, "we immediately began calling the radio stations to warn them not to play the album, and inform them that we are sending the correct compact discs."

A&R Records has been very apologetic for the human error leading to one box of 30 mislabeled discs, RTVC officials said, but discussions with the company are continuing.

"And if a teenager should wander into a record store this month to buy a Dead Kennedys album and is surprised when he winds up with Powerline, we'd like to hear from them, too," he added. "They'll have a real collector's item."

Volunteers for Crossover Houston asked to register

ATLANTA (BP) — Volunteers are encouraged to sign up now for "Crossover Houston," an evangelistic thrust to precede the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Houston.

The SBC meeting is scheduled for June 15-17, with the evangelistic emphasis set for June 9-13. Volunteers can register by writing Bobby Sunderland at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30367-

5601.

Volunteers are needed for local church revivals, mass evangelism rallies, street evangelism such as puppet shows or concerts, block parties, door-to-door campaigns, and a three-day prayer conference, said Sunderland, evangelism assistant for promotion and project development.

Last year in Indianapolis, 1,043 people made professions of faith because of Crossover activities.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Tom Elliff declines FMB presidential nomination

By Robert O'Brien & Herb Hollinger

DALLAS (BP) — The trustee committee searching for a president for the Foreign Mission Board said Jan. 29 it had "narrowed its interest to a single candidate" but that the candidate had not accepted the nomination.

Committee chairman Joel Gregory declined comment on whether that candidate was Oklahoma pastor Tom Elliff, a name widely reported in news media.

But Elliff told Baptist Press Jan. 29 he talked to the committee Jan. 27 and gave them his decision not to accept the position.

Elliff said the committee and he and his wife had prayed extensively and "had a desperate desire to hear God, not man."

Gregory said he was bound by a covenant between committee members to go no further than to say the committee had narrowed the list to one man in its nine-

month search and he had decided not to accept.

A search committee statement, released Jan. 29, said: "The committee recently narrowed its interest to a single candidate, only to find with prayer an apparent mutual and bilateral determination by the candidate and the committee that the will and timing of God rested in another direction."

Gregory categorically denied a rumor the 15-member committee might resign.

He said the committee, which has met 13 times and held five teleconferences since April 8, has invested a lot of effort in the search and will continue to seek a candidate.

By trustee action any candidate elected to succeed R. Keith Parks as Foreign Mission Board president must receive a 75% vote of the trustees.

Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., told Baptist Press he and his wife "haven't had any peace that we should continue in this process."

He said he told the committee last fall to remove his name from the list but agreed to meet with the committee and to go through a medical evaluation at the Cooper Clinic in Dallas at the committee's request.

"The search committee really impressed me, especially in the last couple of weeks, that they are far and above any political agenda," Elliff said in apparent reference to denominational political and theological controversy. "They are untouched by this issue."

O'Brien is managing editor, News and Information Office, FMB. Hollinger is director of BP.

Freemasons responding to Baptist investigation

By David Winfrey

WASHINGTON (BP) — From letter writing campaigns and special meetings to a call to attend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston, Masons are defending their lodge membership and denying any conflict with Christian doctrine.

"We are simply trying to set the record straight," said John Boettger, managing editor of The Scottish Rite Journal, which expanded and dedicated its February issue to the topic of Freemasonry and religion.

"Even a casual perusal of these pages should convince any person open to reason that Freemasonry is not only compatible with religion

but also confirms and complements religious faith and church participation," wrote C. Fred Kleinknecht, sovereign grand commander of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, in the Journal.

Masonic response comes as Southern Baptists await a study on Freemasonry by the Home Mission Board's Interfaith Witness Department.

Meanwhile, Freemasonry critic Larry Holly said he will publish a second book on the subject to be available at this year's convention. Holly, a Beaumont, Texas, physician who initiated the call for a study of Masonry, mailed his first book to several thousand Baptists prior to the SBC 1991 meeting in Indianapolis.

The Journal, which has a circulation of 550,000, features essays and letters by Southern Baptist pastors and laymen, as well as others such as Guideposts publisher Norman Vincent Peale.

Its cover features a photo of Baylor University as well as photos of Baylor President Herbert Reynolds and President Emeritus Abner McCall. The issue contains articles by both men.

Though not a Mason, James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, wrote that Masons are to

be credited with aiding the spread of the gospel because of their stand for religious tolerance.

"Ask anyone who knows about Baptist beginnings in Brazil," he wrote. "The gospel could not have been preached, the Bible not distributed, and missionaries could not have stayed in many instances without the courageous intervention of Masons who risked all for the free expression of all religious ideas."

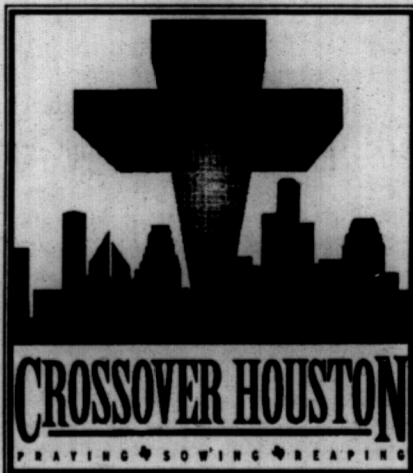
Essays also note that George W. Truett, former pastor of First Church in Dallas, was a Mason, as is U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

Holly said the reaction is not surprising. "Anyone could expect that the Masons, who are very powerful and very wealthy, were not going to roll over and play dead."

Mark Coppenger, SBC vice president for convention relations, said he has received about 250 letters, half of which are from Southern Baptists.

The Home Mission Board's report will be reviewed in early February by the HMB trustee administrative committee before being mailed to the full board prior to the March meeting, said HMB President Larry Lewis.

Winfrey is associate director of News and Information, HMB.





Jack Gunn retires

A veteran of 11 years as executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission, Jack Gunn (above, right) retired effective Dec. 31, 1992. A resolution was unanimously adopted by the Commission, noting that Gunn has "served faithfully and loyally as executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission for 11 years." In addition, note was made of the fact that "during that time he prepared a definitive directory and biographical sketch of Mississippi preachers." Also he authored "numerous church histories and updated *Mississippi Baptist Highlights*." President Jean Bond of Starkville (above, left) read that "his sparkling personality, contagious optimism, enthusiastic spirit, and reasoned idealism brought success to the activities of the MBHC."

Annuity Board files shareholder resolution with Kmart Corporation

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.

DALLAS (BP) — The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has filed a resolution with Kmart Corporation, requesting its inclusion in proxy materials and its consideration by shareholders at their annual meeting May 25.

The resolution asks Kmart's board of directors to "instruct the management of Kmart Corporation to stop the promotion, display, and sale in its Waldenbooks subsidiary of literature and other media that is largely devoted to the description of sexual encounters or that has a graphic depiction of exploitative sex and/or gratuitous violence."

Paul W. Powell, Annuity Board president, said he has asked every church pension board in the nation to study and support the resolution.

In addition, Powell has written to and asked support of all Baptist foundations and state conventions.

"We have no way of knowing who is holding Kmart stock," said Powell, "so we wrote to all our possible allies in the effort to curb the sale of pornography."

The resolution is a result of trustee action on Nov. 3, 1992, following full discussion of alternatives including divesting the stock.

Powell noted, "We could simply

have sold our Kmart holdings, but selling stock has no influence on the company. Our trustees wanted to attempt a meaningful attack on the sale of pornographic publications rather than just protest.

"If we get no satisfactory response, we'll sell the stock in a prudent manner," Powell said. "But I hope we can reach the shareholders and secure their agreement that the materials in question are not appropriate products for Waldenbooks to market."

Powell said he is thus far dismayed at corporate response by Kmart. "In spite of the official communiques to chairman Antonini, he has not had the courtesy to reply. Such executive insensitivity is as surprising as it is disappointing. The first reply — from the corporate secretary — came only after we filed a legal shareholder resolution request. We have never heard from the chairman."

"In the light of such management intransigence, we have no option except to plea the rights of Kmart's owners against the abuse of management," Powell said. "The refusal of management to enter into dialogue is unacceptable and anti-shareholder behavior."

Miller is senior vice president of public relations for the Annuity Board.

Clinton rescinds abortion policies; pro-lifers won't retreat, Land says

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Bill Clinton's Jan. 22 reversal of four anti-abortion federal policies was an attempt "to break the will of the pro-life movement," but he will not succeed, said the head of the Southern Baptist Convention's ethics agency.

On his third day in office, Clinton, a member of a Southern Baptist church, rescinded policies implemented by the Reagan and Bush administrations during the previous three terms. They included bans on federal funding of abortion counseling and referral by non-physicians at family planning clinics, and on funding of fetal tissue transplantation research.

In a fifth memorandum, the new president directed the Food and Drug Administration to decide if the import ban on RU 486, the French abortion pill, should be maintained.

The symbolism of the date on which Clinton acted was not lost on pro-life or pro-choice advocates. On Jan. 22, 1973, the Supreme Court declared abortion a constitutional right. Clinton signed the presidential memoranda as about 75,000 pro-lifers concluded their annual March for Life from the Ellipse, just south of the White House, to the Supreme Court.

"Today is a sad day for America and a horrifying day for unborn children," said Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission.

"As if to add insult to injury, President Clinton takes these actions on the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision. These are truly cruel and spiteful acts meant to break the will of the pro-life movement. ... It will not work."

Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion Rights Action League, said in a written statement, "Today's action has special significance on the historic 20th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, because it signals the dramatic and decisive shift in White House policy on a woman's freedom to choose."

"President Clinton has, indeed, ushered in a new day for choice in America. Today's action is only the beginning," said Michelman, who said NARAL will work with Clinton and Congress to pass the Freedom of Choice Act, an abortion rights bill.

The pro-life movement will not falter under a pro-choice administration, Land said.

"We are more resolved than ever that unborn human life is sacred and must be accorded equal protection under the laws and Constitution of our land," he said. "We will not retreat from our conviction that a nation which allows the slaughter of the most defenseless human beings of our society is a nation which will reap a whirlwind of cheapened and degraded life at all points in the life cycle."

"If our nation continues its present path of exalting a 'quality of life' ethic over a 'sanctity of human life' ethic, President Clinton himself may one day reap the consequences of this exchange when the logical conclusion of his policies is applied to him in his 'golden years.'"

"It is clear to us that President Clinton has begun his presidency by rapidly accelerating America's drift toward neo-paganism," Land said. "The gauntlet has been thrown down in the struggle for our nation's conscience and soul."

The four policies rescinded by

Clinton were:

— The regulations in the Title X program preventing federal funding of family planning clinics which allow non-physicians to do abortion counseling or referral. The regulations were first adopted in 1988. They were upheld by the Supreme Court in 1991. In the past, about \$140 million annually has been provided under Title X for about 4,000 family planning clinics.

— The moratorium on federal funding of transplantation research using tissue from elective abortions. A temporary ban was established in 1988. It was extended indefinitely in 1989 despite a conflicting recommendation from a National Institutes of Health panel. Under the moratorium, tissue from ectopic pregnancies and miscarriages was allowed for use. Some private research using fetal tissue transplantation reportedly has proven successful in treating Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, diabetes, and other diseases.

— The policy prohibiting the Agency for International Development from funding family planning organizations which perform abortions, provide abortion counseling or lobby foreign governments to legalize abortion. Known as the Mexico City Policy, it was adopted in 1984. The American and international Planned Parenthood federations lost their U.S. funding because of this policy.

— The ban on privately funded abortions in overseas U.S. military medical facilities. The policy was adopted through memoranda in 1987 and 1988.

Strode is director of media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

Arthur L. Walker Jr. to retire as Education Commission director

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission since 1978, has announced he will retire effective Sept. 1.

Walker also will retire as executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary which, along with the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., operates American Baptist College (ABC) in Nashville, a four-year Bible college established to provide education primarily for black church leaders.

Walker, who will be 67 in April, is the longest-tenured director in the Education Commission's history. The commission promotes and supports the work of 71 Southern Baptist-related seminaries, universities, colleges, Bible colleges, and academies. Walker also serves as executive secretary for the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

Walker has chaired the Secretariat of the National Association of Inde-

pendent Colleges and Universities and been a member of the board of directors.

Van Quick, chairman of the Education Commission and vice president for student personnel at Mississippi College, said "Arthur Walker is synonymous with Southern Baptist higher education. He has given his life to promoting and improving higher education in our denomination. Dr. Walker has worked tirelessly at his task and he has earned the highest respect of Southern Baptist educators and other denominational leaders."

"The Education Commission greatly appreciates Dr. Walker's many accomplishments during his nearly 15 years of service with the agency," Quick said.

Quick said he has named a search committee which will meet soon to establish guidelines to fill the executive director position.

Members of the committee are Jerry M. Henry, pastor of Elkdale Church, Selma, Ala., chairman; Gregory W. Brockman, layman and

retired soil scientist from Morrison, Colo.; Patrick O. Copley, retired president of Missouri Baptist College, Osage Beach, Mo.; Betty Jo Cooley, layperson and peach farmer from Chesnee, S.C.; and Thomas A. Kinchen, president, Florida Baptist College, Graceville, Fla.

Longtime DOM Anderson dies

William Harold Anderson, Brookhaven, retired pastor and director of missions, died Jan. 29.

A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary, he pastored several churches in Louisiana and Mississippi and was director of missions for Lee Association for 21 years.

He is survived by his wife and one daughter. Funeral services were held at First Church, Brookhaven, Feb. 1.

The State Evangelism Conference



Vernard Johnson

TOP TEN CHURCHES IN TOTAL BAPTISMS FOR 1992

CHURCH	PASTOR	NUMBER
1. Colonial Hills, Southaven	Steve Bennett	217
2. Morrison Heights, Clinton	Ken Alford	146
3. First, Jackson	Frank Pollard	141
4. Northcrest, Meridian	Malcolm Lewis	121
5. Park Place, Brandon	Bobby Williamson	110
6. Colonial Heights, Jackson	Richard Powell	105
7. Sharon, Long Beach	Donnie Guy	100
8. Salem Heights, Laurel	D.J. Benson	97
9. Harrisburg, Tupelo	James R. Chatnam II	96
10. Temple, Hattiesburg	Dean Register	81

TOP TEN CHURCHES IN BAPTISMS, BASED ON RATIO

(resident members to baptisms)

CHURCH	PASTOR	BAPTISMS	RATIO	MEMBERS
1. Coaltown Fellowship, Purvis	James Breazeale	11	1.91	21
2. Midway, Moss Point	Ralph Young	38	3.95	150
3. Schoona Chapel, Pontotoc	Danny Bennett	7	4.29	30
4. Macedonia, Byhalia	Richard O'Bryan	22	4.32	95
5. Wildwood, Southaven	Joseph Haire	3	4.33	13
6. Prairie, Prairie	Herbert Tackett	7	4.43	31
7. Courtland, Courtland	Roy Southern	26	4.50	117
8. Ridglea Heights, Escatawpa	W.H. Edderton Jr.	44	4.73	208
9. Forest Grove, Tishomingo	Lon Pennington	18	4.78	86
10. Pleasant Hill, Calhoun City	Terrell McGregor	45	4.89	220



P.J. Scott

Great Preaching

The state Evangelism Conference met Jan. 25-26 in Tupelo's West Jackson Street Church under the direction of J. Garland McKee, MBCB Evangelism Director.

Ed Young, SBC president and a Laurel native, spoke first on challenging the people. "The most important thing in the world is the church." He declared worship services can be boring and irrelevant; people even have to jump over Baptist nomenclature to get to Christ. If we are not giving biblical answers to the world, we are not challenging them.

Danny Lanier, vocational evangelist of Meridian, observed the ministry of angels. He said angels praised Jesus, angels defend us, and are encamped about those who fear him. They run an escort service to "Abraham's bosom," and came to minister to Jesus in time of suffering and temptation.

Bailey Stone, newly elected Texas Evangelism Director, pointed out the salvaging ministry of Christ with Simon Peter and that people need to be salvaged and loved. "If people felt loved, they would break down the doors of the

church to get in."

Monday evening William Augustus Jones Jr., long time pastor in Brooklyn, NY, said of his



William Augustus Jones Jr.

black congregation, "The less I say the more they remember and the more I say the less they remember, and I find myself saying less and less about more and more." He quoted a London clergy on sermon preparation, "You first get a strong introduction, then a good conclusion and then try to get them as close together as possible." In "Directions for Disciples" he said travel lightly, waste no time, and accept kindness and depart from unkindness.

Bo Baker, Texas evangelist, said we need to stir up the gift of God; you have a high calling, and the church will be no stronger than its leadership. Jack Smith of the Home Mission Board said everything in the church ought to flop if God's blessing is not on it. Moreover, "'How Great Thou Art' is not meant to be sung in front of a

mirror."

P.J. Scott, pastor, First Church, Olive Branch, spoke on a spirit of bitterness (Heb. 12:14-15), pointing out (1) the root of bitterness, (2) the fruit of bitterness, and (3) pursuit of bitterness, to overtake bitterness, and follow peace. The spirit of bitterness will keep us from winning others to Christ.

"Bitterness," Scott declared, "can ruin a person's life, or a church, or a denomination. Get rid of it, cast it off like an old garment, and pursue peace."

Bill Duncan, executive director, Alaska Convention, welcomed all the preachers to come to Alaska where there is a real shortage, and Paul Powell, president of the Annuity Board, also spoke to the conference.

An estimated 1,017 attended the Tupelo conference. — GH

Great Music

Dick Baker, singing evangelist of Dallas, started by saying, "You never heard yourself sing like you are about to."

Superb musicians, June McKee on piano and Bill Hanson of Dallas on organ, promoted great praise. The Singing Churchmen's renditions of "I Will Sing of His Mercy" and "In That Great Getting-Up Morning" thrilled the congregation.

Vernard Johnson lived up to his billing as the world's greatest saxophone player. He brought the crowd to its feet with unique presentations of "Amazing Grace," "Blessed Assurance," and "Victory in Jesus."

"Lisa and Cindy" (sisters Lisa Leavell and Cindy Coon, both of Jackson) hit a spiritual high with "I Just See Jesus." Perry Robinson of Ellisville led the bell ringers while ringing three bells himself.

The highlight of the Evangelism Conference's music for many had to be the congregation singing "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," without any musical instrument. Hearts were stirred by the music and people were blessed, praising God in worship. — GH



West Jackson Street Church Choir

Great Testimony

By William H. Perkins Jr.

With less than 30 days left on his tour of duty in Vietnam, the darkest fear of any U.S. Marine mine-clearing engineer caught up with Tim Lee. Sixty pounds of high explosive in a well-hidden mine ignited under his feet, blasting him skyward and mangling his athletic legs in a split second.

Injuries were so severe that his troops feared he wouldn't make it alive to the hospital ship. The doctors on the ship told a buddy who came to visit that there was little reason to hope he would pull through. The medical crises seemed never-ending. More than a dozen operations were required, but Tim Lee survived.

Today, Tim Lee thrives. The



Tim Lee

married father of three travels the country as an evangelist with a powerful message. Though his war injury claimed both legs and put him in a wheelchair, he has faith to praise God for the life-changing experience that helped propel him into the challenging world of traveling preacher. His mailbox is stuffed with more speaking invitations than he can accept.

To hear his testimony is to realize that God empowers Christians to do the work for which we have been called, regardless of our self-perceived limitations. To listen to his inspired message is to be reassured that God fills us with the Spirit to overflowing, if only we ask.

If only we ask.

capsules

PHYSICIANS NEEDED TO WORK IN YEMEN: JIBLA, Yemen (BP) — Southern Baptists need permanent and short-term physicians to reinforce their medical staff at Jibla Baptist Hospital. Two Southern Baptist physicians have just left Yemen permanently to come back to the United States and marry, said Gerry Volkart, the Foreign Mission Board's associate area director for the Middle East. Both were in their first term. The most immediate need is for short-termers until new career missionaries respond to this need and are appointed, she added. The 77-bed hospital, opened by Southern Baptists in 1967, treats up to 40,000 people a year and performs an average of 400 surgeries monthly. It offers Yemenis one of their few opportunities to have contact with Christian people.

DRAPER URGES PRAYER FOR CLINTON, GORE: NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists who voted for Bill Clinton and those who opposed him now have a shared biblical obligation to pray for the nation's 42nd president, James T. Draper Jr. said. Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, writing in his monthly column in the February issue of *Facts and Trends*, noted President Bill Clinton and Vice President Albert Gore Jr. are both members of Southern Baptist churches, a first. "Doubtless, Southern Baptists split in their vote for the presidency just as the nation as a whole did. There have been and continue to be many areas of concern each of us has about the future of our country and the approach that is taken to leadership and governing. That is nothing new. Politics has always been a diverse matter and has resulted in many different opinions," Draper said. "However, there is one truth that transcends all of the differences of this election: God is still God and he still governs the affairs of men," he added. "So what should be our response to this election of two fellow Southern Baptists to the highest elected positions in this land?" Draper asked. "There are some who strongly support President Clinton and Vice President Gore. Others are strongly critical and hostile. So, what shall we do? Shall we complain and condemn if we disagree with them? Shall we praise and support if we agree?" Citing Scripture verses 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Draper said the Bible "instructs us to pray for those in positions of leadership and authority."

DENOMINATIONAL RELATIONS GROUP VIOLATES LAW, SAYS SBC COUNSEL: NASHVILLE (BP) — A Tennessee-based "Southern Baptist Denominational Relations Information, Inc." is not affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention and has been asked to cease using the name "Southern Baptist," according to SBC legal counsel. In a Jan. 8 letter, James P. Guenther, Nashville attorney and SBC legal counsel, advised the denominational relations group that its name "implies that your Tennessee nonprofit corporation is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, a religious organization." Guenther said that violates Tennessee law because the SBC has not certified in writing any fact of affiliation as the statute requires. The risk that the SBC could be charged with knowingly permitting the use of its name and thereby assuming responsibility in "wrongs and debts" relating to the denominational relations group also was cited by Guenther. "We ask you to immediately confirm to us that you will cease the use of this name and that you will promptly either amend your articles of incorporation to change the name or dissolve the corporation," Guenther said in the letter made available to Baptist Press. However, in an October news conference in Dallas, Randall H. Fields, a San Antonio, Texas, attorney was identified as the leader of the denominational relations group. John Baugh, a retired corporate executive from Houston, also has been identified with the corporation.

WHILE TEACHING ON PSALM 103, FORMER PASTOR'S VOICE IS HEALED: HOUSTON (BP) — Duane Miller welcomed an old friend Sunday morning, Jan. 17. He got his voice back. After three years of dealing with a throat-wrenching, laryngitis-like ailment that had forced him to leave a pastorate, Miller's voice returned to normal as he taught a Sunday School class at First Church in Houston. The event was recorded on audio tape. Equipped with a special microphone, Miller was teaching a class of 200 people and was reading from Psalms 103 in the New International Version of the Bible: "Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. He forgives my sins and heals all my diseases...." He had been talking about two extremes in current belief systems in commenting on Psalms 103: First, that extreme dispensationalists believe miracles ceased with the close of the New Testament and will never happen again and, on the other side, that some people believe everybody should be healed because Christ died on the cross and healing was in his atonement. "I had said that on the one side there is the group that believes God always heals miraculously and on the other is the group that says it never happens. But what you have to realize is that puts God in a box, I said, and he won't be put in a box. 'I told them that what you have to do with divine healing is just stand back and say, 'I know God does that from time to time, and I can't tell you why. I don't understand why some are healed and some aren't,' and leave it there and say that is in the Lord's wisdom; so be it.'"

1992 was tough around the world, but missions went on

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Few would deny 1992 was a rough year for the Foreign Mission Board. But it was also a year in which foreign missions made significant advances.

Still recovering from a dispute over the defunding of a European seminary deemed too liberal by board trustees, the mission agency in 1992 saw some missionaries resign in protest, the departure of several key administrators and the reluctant retirement of R. Keith Parks, its president for nearly 13 years and a 38-year veteran of foreign missions.

Parks then agreed to head the mission arm of the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Some predicted the end of Southern Baptists' traditional unity in missions. Others said there are plenty of world mission needs to be met by all — and plenty of mission support to go around.

But foreign missions went on while Southern Baptists at home debated how foreign missions should be administered and speculated on Parks' successor. Final statistics on baptisms, church starts, and the like aren't yet available, but some historic things happened.

"In at least three unevangelized people groups, we have seen the first person in history come to know the Lord and be baptized," reported board vice president Lewis Myers.

Missionaries continued to put their lives on the line daily in hot spots: the Middle East, South Africa, Angola, Liberia, Mozambique, Colombia, Peru. One missionary was briefly kidnapped and threatened before being released. Other workers were beaten and robbed. One young worker died in an auto accident while serving a persecuted people.

In less dangerous places, 3,900 Southern Baptist missionaries quietly continued to serve and evangelize. They even surpassed their Bold Mission Thrust goal of having missionaries in 125 countries by the year 2000. They now personally work in 128, assist ministries in 27 others, and have a Christian witness in 11 other nations. The splintering of some countries where missionaries already were working helped meet the goal, but meeting it eight years early was a landmark nevertheless.

One 1991 event continued to affect the whole world: the breakup of the Soviet Union. "We saw only the beginning of the pebble tossed into the pond that had very heavy waves immediately in 1992," said FMB research director Clark Scanlon. "It will have continuing impact into the future. This opened suddenly many countries that had been closed to us before. It also meant a great demand for having people to go in and cover them."

Perhaps most significant for world evangelization, missionaries

actually planted churches in "World A" — that part of humanity virtually untouched by the gospel and hostile to it. Southern Baptists have begun focusing on entirely unreached peoples in recent years. In 1992 the effort began to pay off, with small groups of believers meeting among an estimated 20 previously unreached people groups.

"It's not just a matter of trying to approach these areas, or elicit prayer for these areas, or have someone researching," said Mike Stroepe, area director of Cooperative Services International, which works in restricted areas. "It's a matter of planting churches. To me that's thrilling. In some places it's the first church among a people group, in other places the first believer among a people group. That's why we're there. It's history-making. It's their first-century (church)."

"I think the most significant thing in the whole region is the tremendous response of our missionaries (to transfer to the former Soviet Union) — people willing to leave countries they've settled into and uproot their families and move into a very difficult and shaky part of the world," said Tom Warrington, associate director for Europe. "We've gotten phenomenal response from mis-

sionaries. Some are in their mid- or late 50s but will learn a new language and establish a ministry. That to me speaks volumes."

New Baptist Sunday School literature has been accepted "across the whole Arab world," reported Dale Thorne, area director for the Middle East and North Africa. "We've seen tremendous results in church growth. A whole revival broke out among Assembly of God churches in Egypt — as many as 20,000 new believers."

It took two days and extra pastors from nearby cities to baptize 417 new members of Xuzhou Christian Church in Jiangsu province of China. Southern Baptist visitors Charles and Mary Elizabeth Ray of Purvis, Miss., watched believers stream into the church. They said the new Christians were obviously moved by the experience despite "the noise and commotion" generated by the throng at the service. "It was amazing," Mrs. Ray said. "Even in the midst of such a large crowd, it seemed to be a meaningful, personal event for each one." A church leader said the baptisms put membership there at "something close to 1,500." He attributes the influx of new believers to the Holy Spirit. "We have no other explanation," he said.

Bridges writes for FMB.

Devotional

God's work in Tokyo

By Rennie Ohtani

Following is an excerpt from a letter from Rennie Ohtani, a native Mississippian who has lived in Tokyo, Japan, since 1961. Initially, she served as a missionary with the Foreign Mission Board. From 1965-1992, she was minister of music for Oi Baptist Church, where her husband Keigo currently is pastor. She writes:

"1991 and 1992 have been very busy, but good and special years for us. In 1991, we finally completed our 50-year anniversary educational building (basement through fourth floor), but call it our 50th-60th Anniversary Building. 1993 begins Oi Baptist Church's 62nd year. We also have a new parsonage including Keigo's 83-year-old father who came to live with us two years ago.

"We are thankful for the new facilities along with God's challenge to strive to complete a building adequate enough to accommodate the people he sends. We still have years to pay before we can build a new auditorium. But we are grateful that our rooms are being used every day during the week for kindergarten, Bible classes, choirs, and even Tokyo Baptist Seminary classes; and also six or more times on Sunday for two worship services, two Sunday Schools, and choirs in the morning, and for various groups' meetings and choirs in the afternoon, and then for evening worship. Rejoice with us and pray for us.

"This year (1992), God answered one of my longest prayers. What I did not know was that he began preparing the answer in 1961, the very year I began praying. He just kept it a secret to surprise me when it was needed most and perhaps make me continue praying. The answer is the calling of a full-time minister of music... upon my resignation... after 27 years of service." (The young woman called by the church was born in 1961. She also was one of Ohtani's students at Tokyo Baptist Seminary.)

"Now I have more time to fill the requests I get for composing, arranging, teaching, and leading music conferences, and taking care of grandfather. I am still teaching and developing the music department of the Tokyo Baptist Seminary where we now have 12 full-time music students and eight special students. We have thus far had four graduates from the minister of music graduate course.

"I like my new plaque which says, 'This is the beginning of the rest of my life.'"

Letters to the editor

Thanks from FMB head

Editor:

I simply want to express my appreciation for your support for foreign missions, especially in regard to your paper's recent emphases for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions. I have been heartened by the many positive messages of foreign missions coming from our state papers.

Because of your willingness to run numerous foreign missions articles, and due to the supportive words of your editorials, we look confidently for a strong ingathering of this offering. Of course it will take some time before we know the full outcome of the offering, but you deserve an immediate expression of gratitude for your efforts which promote the offering.

Once again, thanks for your vision of taking the gospel message to the uttermost parts of the earth. May God continually bless you in your worthy ministry.

Don Kammerdiener
Interim president
Foreign Mission Board

Defining bigotry

Editor:

This is to reply to the letter from Shelly and Mary Ellen Fontz in the Baptist Record, dated Jan. 21.

First, the definition of the word "bigotry," as found in the Random House College Dictionary: "Bigotry: stubborn, and complete intolerance, of any creed, belief, or opinion that differs from one's own."

The main objection, as stated in your letter, is that good Baptists, such as the minister from Laurel, have suggested that we do not refer to Clinton and Gore as fellow Southern Baptists.

Exodus 20:13 states: "Thou shalt not kill." Now we have Clinton giving authority to relax restrictions on abortion. Killing babies, yet unborn, is murder. This is another example of not agreeing with the Bible. He has also shown his approval of homosexuality in that he doesn't want any restrictions put on sex perverts.

Please read in Genesis, chapters 18 and 19. I do believe you will get a picture of God's opinion of sexual perverts. Especially would I recommend you read 19:5, with emphasis on the last part of the verse, which reads "that we may know them." Also, find out the real meaning of the word "know" in the heathen sense.

Sodom, Gomorrah, Zeboim, Adnah, and Zoar were the cities where the practices of sexual perversion rose like a stink in God's nostrils, that he destroyed them so completely that archeologists can't find their locations.

The name of the most loathsome

and disgusting practice is named after Sodom.

With Clinton relaxing the restrictions on abortions and sex perverts, what would lead you to think he believes like a Christian Southern Baptist?

While the fact is now ignored by the media, AIDS, the most horrible plague, has been unleashed upon us by the heathenish practices of homosexuals.

Why would you object to calling Clinton a Southern Baptist when his actions belie any belief in Southern Baptist doctrine, which comes from the Bible?

I thank God we have Southern Baptist ministers and lay people who have the fortitude to stand firm against any acts or utterances which attempt to contradict the Bible, from which Southern Baptist doctrine comes.

Louis E. Griffin, Sr.
McComb

Indonesian greetings

Editor:

Under the "it's a small world after all" department:

We spent Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in Jakarta with a couple from our home church in Vancleave, Miss. Casey Jones is with the Embassy. He and his family arrived in Indonesia about the same time we did. We were able to play surrogate grandparents to the kids. Thanks, Lloyd

and Jean for letting us borrow your kids and grandchildren!

In the same realm, we received a phone call the other night from Morley's cousin Kay who is living in Jakarta with her husband who works for Mobile Oil. Walt Disney was right!

Speaking of small world, we now have a new grandson (thanks to Greg and Marilyn), born in July. His name is Jacob Morley and Isaac is very proud of his new brother.

Thanks for your prayer support. Our house has sold and we are free and clear of the financial drain. We have been able to keep progressing through the units of Language School.

Doors of ministry are opening with opportunity to preach, teach, and witness by our lifestyle. The situation with visas for missionaries is very critical; visas are often being revoked after three years. We must renew our visas every year and the uncertainty of approval is stressful.

Giving to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will enable workers to be on the field.

Thanks, First, Vancleave, for your efforts and expenses to distribute this letter. It is really nice to have a church family like you.

Morley & Rebecca Mason
Jl. Hegarmanah 77
Bandung 40141
Indonesia

an apology to all members of the Clarke College alumni association and former faculty and staff — particularly four individuals whom I have already written personally.

My only access to the larger community apparently offended by my remarks is through the Baptist Record, so I appreciate your including this letter in the Record.

The apology is for remarks I made to the Convention during the debate over the joint resolution and subsequent substitute motion regarding Clarke College. My words of love and respect for Clarke uttered during the debate, according to Crozier, have insulted others who gave their lives to the Institution by implying that my love was greater than others felt for Clarke. That certainly was not the intention of my words, and I truly apologize to all that I may have offended for not communicating my meaning more clearly.

I really do love the things that Clarke has done for Mississippi Baptists and the kingdom of God around the world. I really do love the people who attended Clarke and the dedicated faculty and staff who served there through the years. I really do love and feel great empathy for those who differed with me regarding the best action the Convention should have taken in the wake of the closing of the college. You are my brothers and sisters and I would never have done anything intentionally to hurt you in any way.

Ron Kirkland, pastor
First Church, Amory

Public apology

Editor:

My Christian brother, Nelson Crozier, informed me that I owed

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Names in the News



John Johnson, left, was recently honored by Salem Church, Lauderdale, for 32 years of perfect Sunday School attendance. R.W. Shelton, right, Sunday School director, presented Johnson with a pin. Danny Ethridge is pastor.

Staff Changes

First Church, Meridian, has called John Leland (Lee) Berg as pastor effective Feb. 1. A



native of Houston, Texas, he holds a bachelor of arts degree from Houston Baptist University, Houston; a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth; and an earned doctorate degree from Baylor University, Waco, Texas. He goes to First Church from West Oaks Church, Houston. His wife, Carol, is the daughter of Foy Valentine, former executive director of the Christian

Life Commission.

Steven McKinion has accepted a call to First Church, Graceville, Fla., as associate pastor/minister of students. He is moving from Woodland Hills Church in Jackson.

Gooden Lake Church, Belzoni, has called Bill Hudson of Jackson as pastor effective Jan. 24.

Locust Street Church, Pike Association, has called J. Frank Smith of McComb as pastor. He is a graduate of SMU in Dallas, and William Carey College. He is also a Psychometrist with the McComb Public Schools. He has served as pastor of Topisaw Church in Lincoln County and Zion Hill Church in Wesson.

Sollie I. Smith, pastor emeritus of Superior Avenue Church in Bogalusa, La., was honored by



Smith

that congregation on Jan. 24 with an 80th birthday celebration. Smith was pastor of Superior Avenue for 16 years. He also pastored churches in Mississippi during his 61-year ministry, including Center Terrace, Stonewall, and churches in Isola, Harpersville, and Madison. Smith now lives in Henleyville, where he preaches interim and supply, raises cattle, and operates a live oak nursery. His address is: Rt. 1, Box 280, Carriere, MS 39426.

Shelly Traxler Overby, Ms. Mississippi, will appear in concert with the youth choir of First Church, Polkville, Feb. 7, in the 6:30 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. worship services. Overby is the former Miss Morton, a finalist in Miss Mississippi, and a competitor for the Ms. America crown. Ralph Hall is minister of music, First, Polkville.

Tony Henry has surrendered to full-time evangelism. He has pastored for 13 years, serving five churches. He is available for revivals, interim work, or pulpit supply. Contact Henry at P.O. Box 276, Walnut Grove, MS 39189, phone (601) 253-2232, or through New Zion Church, Leake County, Kenny Lang, pastor.

TV anchor suspended over comments on media's anti-Christian "bias"

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — A television anchorman has been suspended from his job after telling a group of conservative political activists that the news media are "liberal" and biased against Christians.

Lee Webb, news anchor for WTLV in Jacksonville, Fla., was suspended by the NBC affiliate for three days Jan. 27 for "violating company policy," News Director Kevin Brennan told the Florida Times-Union.

The station declined to comment on the incident or to confirm the reason for Webb's suspension. Webb likewise declined to comment. "They've asked me not to talk about it," he told the newspaper.

Webb was a speaker for a Jan. 16 leadership training seminar sponsored by the Jacksonville chapter of the Christian Coalition, a national organization founded by TV evangelist Pat Robertson to mobilize Christians for political action on conservative causes.

The seminar attracted 100-plus people to Westside Church,

where Webb, one of several speakers, offered advice on how the Christian Coalition could influence the news media.

Webb's comments were later reported in a cover story of Folio, a weekly lifestyle newspaper in Jacksonville.

In his address, Webb mentioned "the obvious bias that exists in the media against you as Christians." According to Folio, he showed a videotape of an NBC News story on the Religious Right which he said illustrated the bias. "We hear complaints every day that the news media is liberal. Yes, my friends, it is."

The TV station's action suspending Webb, though apparently legal, brought complaints from many Jacksonville residents. They said WTLV, while claiming freedom of speech for its broadcasts, was applying a different standard to its employees.

It was unclear Jan. 28 if any other action would be taken against Webb, who is a member of a non-denominational Christian church in Jacksonville.

President Clinton moves to strike military's ban on gays

WASHINGTON (ABP) — President Bill Clinton announced Jan. 29 he will issue an executive order by July 15 reversing the military's ban on homosexuals.

Clinton also said the government will stop legal action against known homosexual soldiers if that prosecution is based on sexual preference and not military conduct. And, he said, military recruiters will stop asking recruits about their sexual preference, which has been a means of keeping homosexuals out of military service.

The president's push to end discrimination of gays in the military got legal assistance Jan. 28 from a federal judge in California, who said the ban is unconstitutional. The ruling by U.S. District Judge Terry Hatter Jr. of Los Angeles applies only to the court's jurisdiction in California but may set the tone for other rulings.

Clinton has been working on a compromise with proponents of the ban, who include members of

Congress and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Earlier he held separate meetings with the joint chiefs and congressional Democratic leaders, who have urged him to delay action on the matter.

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, urged the president to delay formal action until his committee could hold hearings on the issue in March. Nunn's speech on the Senate floor Jan. 27 prompted a meeting between Clinton and Democratic leaders of Congress.

Efforts to reverse the ban on homosexuals in the military has also drawn criticism from some religious leaders, including Southern Baptists.

Richard Land, executive director of the Christian Life Com-

mission, criticized Clinton, a Southern Baptist, for using "the power of his office to extol and defend such reprehensible, immoral behavior" as homosexuality.

"Our commander in chief is pursuing a policy which is dictated by the homosexual political lobby and is opposed by the overwhelming majority of military personnel," Land said in a prepared statement.

Land warned that after relaxing the ban on gays, Clinton might permit male and female soldiers to share sleeping quarters or require military chaplains to perform same-sex marriages.

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MORGANTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH, Natchez, is seeking a full-time music and youth staff person. Resumes should be sent to Search Committee, Morgantown Baptist Church, 2164 Second St., Natchez, MS 39120; phone (601) 442-2793. Pastor is Dr. James Walters.

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POSITION OPEN Minister of Education. Parkview Baptist, one of the leading churches in Louisiana, is seeking an experienced Minister of Education. Candidates must have had at least five years in a medium to large church with total Educational Responsibilities for all age levels and be innovative in finding ways to reach adults. Our current attendance level is approximately 1,100. Send

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POSITION OPEN for Daycare/Kindergarten Director at Alta Woods Baptist Church. Mail resume to 168 Colonial Dr., Jackson, MS 39204.

First, Jackson, will host single adult rally, seminar

Thursday, February 4, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Just for the Record

A statewide Single Adult Rally will be held Friday, Feb. 5, beginning 8 p.m., in the sanctuary of First Church, Jackson.

The rally will feature 1984 Miss Mississippi Wanda Gayle Geddie and Harold Ivan Smith. Geddie is now a model and concert soloist living in New York City. Smith is president of a Kansas City consulting firm which deals with single adults in the workplace, and is author of 30 books for and about single adults.

Smith will also conduct a seminar in Fellowship Hall West at First Church, Jackson, Feb. 6, 10

a.m.-12 p.m.

There is a \$5 charge for the seminar. Tickets are available in advance from the sponsoring agency, Family Ministry Section, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or at the rally and seminar. There is no charge for the Friday night rally.

Horace L. Kerr, manager of the family ministry program, encourages single adults of all ages to attend the rally and seminar. He may be contacted at (601) 968-3800, ext. 3973, for more information.

BILLS

From page 2

capital of the South. This would also legalize off-track betting across the state. Betting parlors could be set up in any location permitted by law. Recommendation: Oppose.

HB 503 would prohibit riverboat gambling in any county that defeated a gambling referendum twice. Recommendation: Support.

HB 504 would prohibit an election on riverboat gambling for five years in any county that defeats a referendum of approval. Recommendation: Support.

HB 505 would permit off-track gambling on pari-mutuel horse and dog races that are run in other states and other countries. This is another attempt to expand gambling and the out of state provisions make state regulation difficult. This could only be to the advantage of the gambling cartels. Recommendation: Oppose.

SB 2009 would create the Mississippi Lottery Corporation and thus establish lottery in the state. Recommendation: Oppose.

SB 2133 would prohibit legal

gambling in certain counties. Recommendation: Support.

Indian gambling

HB 502 would authorize the governor to negotiate a tribal-state gambling compact with the Choctaw Nation. Plans are for large gambling casinos on lands owned by native Americans on the Gulf Coast and near Philadelphia. The compact is required by federal regulations. Recommendation: Oppose.

Tobacco

HB 122 would regulate and punish the sale of tobacco products to minors. Recommendation: Support.

HB 181, 184, and 185 would prohibit smoking in state office buildings and in certain public indoor areas. This is needed to protect the public from passive smoke. Recommendation: Support.

The Christian Action Commission will regularly provide through the Baptist Record new introductions and the progress of existing legislation. Your legislators need to know your thoughts on the legislation pending before them.

Jones is executive director, Christian Action Commission, MBC.

The Telestials of Nashville, Tenn., will begin a weekend of gospel singing, beginning Feb. 5 at 7 p.m., Ludlow Church. At 7 p.m. on Feb. 6, the group will perform at New County Line Church, Edinburg. On Feb. 7, 10:30 a.m., the group will be in charge of the worship at Mt. Zion Church, and at Leesburg Church near Pelahatchie, 6:45 that evening. For more information, call (601) 654-3990.

Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, will host a food drive being sponsored in conjunction with the upcoming Dallas Holm Concert on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds from the food drive are being donated to Gateway Rescue Mission and Crestwood Baptist Center. A free will offering will be received during the concert for the ministry of Dallas Holm. For more information, call the church at (601) 956-5000.

Simpson County Association is observing Glen Schilling Day on Sunday, Feb. 14, in observance of his 15 years of service as director of missions. Glen and Juanita Schilling will officially conclude their ministry on April 30, due to his physical disability resulting from an injurious fall several months ago. He is making marked improvement, but is still in the Magee General Hospital. Hospital bills are now in excess of \$200,000 although insurance will probably pay most of it. An Glen Schilling Special Account has been set up at People's Bank in Mendenhall for contributions.



First Church, Potts Camp, honored its GAs on Dec. 6 in a program entitled, "What a Wonderful World." The girls received their sashes and badges. Pictured, left to right, first row, are: Jessica Bridges, Whitney Bridges, Candi Moore, Brittney Bridges, Brook Hale, Susan Ash; second row, April Boren, Michelle House, Amber Smith, Amanda Humphreys, Marla Canerdy, Stacy Walker; and third row, Katie Walker and Haven Hale.



Magee's Creek Church, Jayess, held a note burning on Nov. 22 for a new sanctuary with a project cost of \$80,000. Deacons, pictured left to right, are Bennie Holmes, Herlin Anthony, Curtis Rimes, Max Parris, pastor, Hugh Howell, Dewitt Bennett, and Bobby Stovall.



Fred Jolly (above, right), who formerly served on the home mission field, recently accepted the pastorate of Shiloh Church, Chickasaw County. He replaces Bobby Long (above, left), who is retiring after serving the church 23 years.

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- February 20, Immanuel BC, Hattiesburg (9:00-11:00 a.m.)
- February 22, FBC, Greenwood

For registration information, contact the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205 Phone 968-3800

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Missionary News

Earl Hewitt, missionary to Ghana, is in the States (address: P.O. Box 489, Summit, MS 39666). A native of Mississippi, he was born in McComb and considers Summit his hometown.

Uniform Commissioned to witness



By Chuck Pourciau
Luke 24:36-53

The death of Jesus dealt a crushing blow to his followers. They did not yet understand that his death and resurrection were necessary to his messianic ministry. That is evidenced by the fact the women's report of the resurrection was seen by the disciples as nonsense (24:11). It also is evidenced by the Lord's conversation with two of his followers on the road to Emmaus. It was the first time in years that many of them were without him. Life without Jesus left them grieving, frustrated, and depressed.

Not much has changed in nearly 2,000 years. Life without Jesus leaves people grieving, frustrated, and depressed. Just like Jesus opened his followers' eyes concerning his mission, the believers of today must open their eyes to their commission to witness. Only then can grief, frustration, and depression be removed from the lives of unbelievers.

The Christian bears witness to a living Lord (vv. 36-43). The disciples found it difficult to believe that Jesus was actually alive. They continued to believe that he was a ghost or a spirit until he ate some fish. The resurrection of Jesus is truly the most remarkable miracle of all time. We can see how the apostles were astonished. Yet the fact that he did rise from the dead gives testimony to a very important fact. The Christian bears witness to a *living* Lord. He is not only a figure of ancient history whose teachings we attempt to get people to accept. He is a living, ever-present power that can transform lives.

The ministries of both Jesus and the church are fulfillments of Scripture (vv. 44-48). It was at this point that the disciples finally understood that what had happened to Jesus was no accident. It was a fulfillment of Scripture. Yet that was not the end of the Scripture fulfillment. The ministry of the church had also been foretold in the Old Testament, and that was yet to be fulfilled. The ministry of the church is to preach the name of Jesus among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. This had been prophesied in Isaiah 49:6.

This commissioning was not just to Peter or James. It was to all his followers, past and present. It is a task for all Christians, newly born and mature. Being a witness for Christ requires neither a high I.Q. nor extensive education. It requires only the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the power needed for effective Christian witness (v. 49). Many of these followers had been with Jesus for three years and knew him well, but they were commanded to remain in the city until they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit. It mattered not how well they knew him. They would be powerless until they had been clothed with power from on high. This should give every believer great confidence and boldness. The Holy Spirit will provide us with what we need for each witnessing encounter. With his presence every witnessing encounter will be a joy. We often lack self-confidence when we attempt to witness. We do not have to have self-confidence when we have Spirit-confidence.

After the ascension, Jesus rules as Lord (vv. 50-53). Luke here recorded the ascension of Jesus, and this marked a very important point in redemption history. The ascension of Jesus was necessary for the coming of the Holy Spirit. He ascended, was seated at the right hand of the Father, and dispensed the promised gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:32-33). His ascension thus made possible two very important aspects of the church. First, he had to ascend before he could send the Holy Spirit. In the form of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is in all places at all times. Second, his position at the right hand of God denotes his supreme authority. He is in control of the universe. We need not fear the progress of evil. In the power of the risen Lord we will overcome and be victorious.

The fact that Jesus is alive and empowering his church should bring forth continual praise from his children (vv. 52-53). Jesus Christ is Lord and his children are assured of victory. How can we allow the king of the losers (Satan) to discourage us from a service of gratitude to the Lord? How can we continue to allow him to carry more and more people of the world with him into a fiery hell? We must preach "his name among all nations...."

Pourciau is pastor, First Church, Louisville.

Bible Book Laments for a nation



By Guy A. Hughes
Psalms 77, 85, 126

Abraham Lincoln, in appointing a National Fast Day, stated plainly, "It is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon."

At the time, Lincoln himself had no assurance of his own salvation. The time came, however, when he told friends how he arrived at peace in his soul: "When I left Springfield, I asked the people to pray for me; I was not a Christian. When I buried my son — the severest trial of my life — I was not a Christian. But when I went to Gettysburg, and saw the graves of thousands of our soldiers, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ." God has often used national tragedy to bring men to Christ.

Agonizing over God's apparent unresponsiveness (77:9-10). This Psalm was probably written just prior to the Babylonian invasion of Judah. The northern kingdom had already fallen to Assyria. The writer was in deep sorrow for his nation. As the people of God faced what seemed like total annihilation, the psalmist asked, "Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he withdrawn his compassion in anger?" The mood of the Psalm changes in verse 10 as he remembers the Lord's hand in the past.

Remembering the works of the Lord (77:11-15). The psalmist realized whereas man is fickle, God is steadfast. Man breaks his promises. God keeps his. He takes the momentary troubles of the present and works them for his glory and our good. He took Joseph from a pit and made him the leader of a nation. Egypt was blessed until a pharaoh came to power that "knew not Joseph" (Ex. 1:8), nor the God of Joseph. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Ps. 33:12).

Remembering God's deliverances in the past (85:1-3). The probable setting for Psalm 85 is a previous deliverance of Israel from a time of trouble. This is a clear reference to the Day of Atonement which was a national day of remorse and forgiveness of sin for the people of Israel. Two goats were used in this national ceremony. On one, the scapegoat, the sins and the iniquities of the people were placed on his head. The goat was then taken by a man who led it through the streets while the people pulled at its wool, pricking it, spitting on it, and urging it to begone. At the end of the route, outside the city, the goat had a scarlet thread wrapped around its neck and then pushed off the cliff. Once completed, the announcement was relayed back to the temple and the people were symbolically cleansed from their sin. The second goat was sacrificed and blood was sprinkled on the altar in the Holy of Holies. This ended the rites of the Day of Atonement, God's wrath was appeased, and the nation's sin was cleansed for one more year. God provided eternal salvation when he sent his only son, Jesus, to be the sacrifice for our sin.

Praying for God's deliverance in the present (85:4-7). The psalmist asks an all-important question, "Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?" (v. 6). The task of revival belongs to God, not to man. The joy of our salvation and the power of a transformed life can only come as we look to him in humble repentance. A nation will not be delivered from its ills until revival breaks out in the souls of its individuals. God's deliverance begins when each person looks to God for salvation.

Recalling God's blessings (126:1-3). This Psalm is a national cry of relief from pain. The nation returns from captivity and God's deliverance was so miraculous it seemed as a dream. Their hearts once heavy are now filled with joy and song.

A cry for renewal (126:4-6). Once a man confronts, confesses, and is cleansed of his sin his heart becomes burdened for others. The battle for the spirit of America will only be won as we "bear the precious seed" of God's Word into the homes of individuals held captive to sin's bondage. Former President Ronald Reagan once said, "The time has come to turn to God and reassert our trust in him for the healing of America... our country is in need of and ready for spiritual renewal...." God help us!

Hughes is pastor, Friendship Church, Grenada.

Life and Work Fulfilling family responsibilities



By Laura Russell
Genesis 24:2-4; 5-7; 12; 67;
25:11a

Isaac's story is a distinct example of God's perfect timetable in a believer's life. This child of promise was born at the stated time God had decreed. God furnished the sacrificial ram at the precise moment needed. God sent Rebekah directly to the well as an answer to the servant's prayer. This story is also another example of Abraham's continuous journey along the path of obedience. In this lesson Abraham seeks God's guidance in carrying out fulfilling family responsibilities.

Abraham charges his servant (24:2-4). Abraham has one last duty to perform — to find a wife for his son, the heir of the promise. This is a most important task, for the wife of Isaac will be the one through whom the divine blessing given to Abraham will be passed on to future generations. That is why it is imperative that the right wife be found for Isaac.

Recognizing the extraordinary promise that God had made to Abraham and the destructive influence of the Canaanites, Abraham commissioned his most trustworthy servant to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham made his servant swear that he will not take a wife from the Canaanites, and that he will go to Haran to find her. The patriarch's chief concern was to find a wife for Isaac. A wife who knew and believed in God. A wife who would share a common faith and so allow for the deepest of all harmonies in the home, spiritual harmony. Only in the home where true spiritual harmony prevailed could the spiritual heritage of Abraham be carefully guarded and faithfully transmitted to coming generations.

Abraham assures his servant of God's guidance (24:5-7). Whatever his background, this man was devoted to his master and had great faith in the God of his master. He asked a most reasonable question (v. 5) and Abraham assured him of God's help (v. 7). The servant will be guided in his search for Isaac's wife. Here is the consciousness of destiny which shines through all the history of Abraham. With it is an equally shining faith that God who has purposed great ends for a human life will also make sure the way by which those ends shall be achieved. May we all know that the Lord is not only going with us and following after us, but that he is moving before us (Psalm 139:5).

Abraham's servant seeks God's guidance (24:12). Abraham's servant asked God for guidance in this very important task. Obviously he had learned much about faith and about God from his master. The servant's prayer is a classic example of intercession. He prayed on behalf of his master. It was a most unselfish petition. He prayed in the name of Abraham's God. Having observed the many good things which the Lord had bestowed on his master, he had confidence to beseech God in the spirit of Abraham, and he petitioned reasonably. He asked for direction and confirmation. He appealed to God to work through circumstances in order that he might identify his leading. God's overruling providence is seen in every detail.

Isaac marries Rebekah (24:67). After the servant's account of all that had happened on the long journey, Isaac saw that God had led the servant to choose Rebekah. Isaac instilled Rebekah in Sarah's own tent, and so she became the first lady of the land. It is especially good that Rebekah, so far from home, was blessed with a husband who truly loved her.

God blesses Isaac after Abraham's death (25:11a). Before he died, Abraham did two things for Isaac. He found a life partner for his son and he conveyed his wealth and God's blessings to Isaac. Doubtless Isaac was strengthened in his bereavement by the realization that he stood in special favor with God and would not have to carry on alone. For he was to be the heir of the rich covenant blessings promised to and through Abraham.

Abraham lived 175 years; one hundred years after he came to Canaan. Whether our stay in this life be long or short, what matters most is whether we leave behind a testimony to the faithfulness and goodness of the Lord, and a good example to our families. We should not close the history of the life of Abraham without thanking God for such a testimony of the triumph of faith.

Russell is a member of First Church, Brandon.

Honor Roll of Churches

Each January we evaluate the cash gifts received in Village offices during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist churches in the descending order of their designated cash gifts. This evaluation and analysis has become known as the "Honor Roll of Churches."

THE VILLAGE VIEW



The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

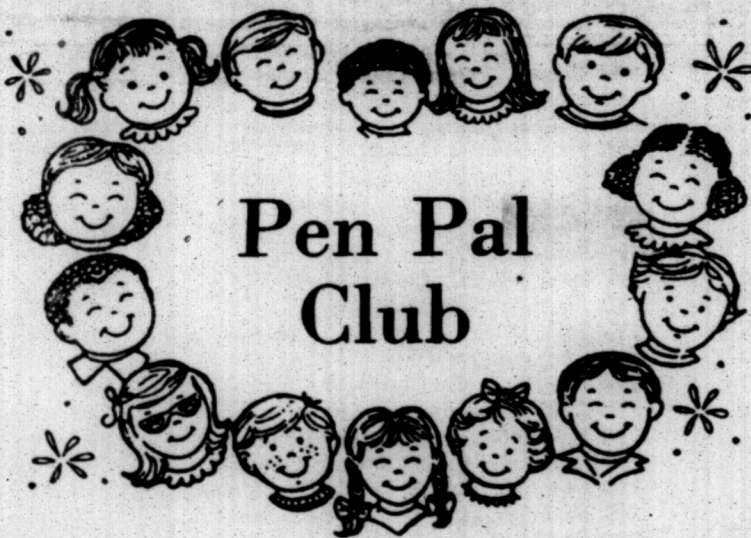
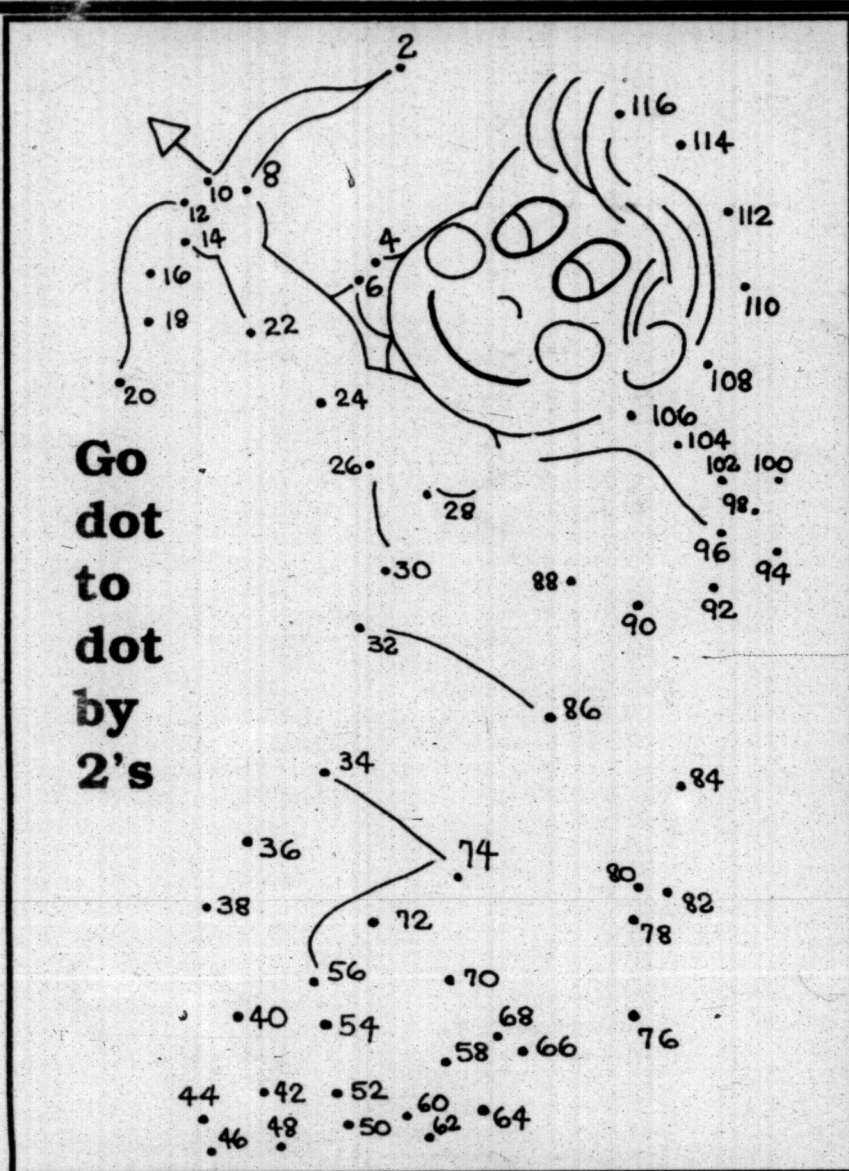
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6.	First Baptist Church, Jackson	10487.00
7.	Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jackson	9740.00
8.	First Baptist Church, Booneville	7589.54
9.	First Baptist Church, Brandon	7428.68
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11.	Raymond Baptist Church, Raymond	6425.00
12.	Liberty Baptist Church, Liberty	6202.44
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19.	First Baptist Church, Magee	4576.00
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69.	First Baptist Church, McComb	2406.17
70.	First Baptist Church, Union	2405.00
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146.	First Baptist Church, Starkville	1514.75
147.	Madden Baptist Church, Madden	1512.68
148.	Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Tupelo	1500.00
149.	Pine Forest Baptist Church, Collinsville	1500.00
150.	West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo	1500.00
151.	First Baptist Church, Steens	1491.00
152.	First Baptist Church, New Albany	1488.15
153.	Bay Springs Baptist Church, Bay Springs	1469.95
154.	Bethsaida Baptist Church, French Camp	1469.44
155.	Mount Nebo Baptist Church, Collinsville	1461.81
156.	Ebenezer Baptist Church, Liberty	1456.32
157.	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Bentonia	1440.00
158.	Union Baptist Church, Meridian	1437.80
159.	Anchor Baptist Church, Water Valley	1434.07
160.	Midway Baptist Church, Jackson	1422.50
161.	Indian Springs Baptist Church, Laurel	1421.17
162.	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Dumas	1418.50
163.	Highland Baptist Church, Meridian	1401.00
164.	First Baptist Church, Greenwood	1401.00
165.	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Taylorsville	1380.00
166.	Ellistown Baptist Church, Blue Springs	1377.73
167.	Gooden Lake Baptist Church, Belzoni	1377.00
168.	First Baptist Church, Isola	1367.39
169.	Macedonia Baptist Church, Brookhaven	1351.85
170.	Calvary Baptist Church, Belmont	1345.20
171.	Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo	1345.00
172.	Hathorn Baptist Church, Columbia	1334.67
173.	Big Creek Baptist Church, Big Creek	1327.29
174.	Macedonia Baptist Church, Tupelo	1326.83
175.	Heuck's Retreat Baptist Church, Brookhaven	1317.50
176.	Horseshoe Baptist Church, Tchula	1313.00
177.	First Baptist Church, Aberdeen	1310.00
178.	Immanuel Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	1302.87
179.	Forest Hill Baptist Church, Jackson	1302.25
180.	Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven	1300.00
181.	Macedonia Baptist Church, Myrtle	1297.87
182.	First Baptist Church, Pascagoula	1260.96
183.	Old Silver Creek Baptist Church, Silver Creek	1260.47
184.	Concord Baptist Church, McCall Creek	1259.70
185.	West Baptist Church, West	1259.00
186.	Flora Baptist Church, Flora	1255.00
187.	First Baptist Church, Lyman, Gulfport	1246.66
188.	Unity Baptist Church, Picayune	1244.00
189.	Sand Hill Baptist Church, Richton	1241.00
190.	First Baptist Church, Carthage	1234.00
191.	Harmony Baptist Church, Louisville	1233.17
192.	Bethany Baptist Church, Calhoun City	1230.00
193.	Seminary Baptist Church, Seminary	1230.00
194.	Bomar Avenue Baptist Church, Vicksburg	1230.00
195.	West Corinth Baptist Church, Corinth	1226.00
196.	Beulah Baptist Church, Decatur	1225.00
197.	Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Gulfport	1225.00
198.	Galilee Baptist Church, Gloster	1225.00
199.	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Quitman	1218.20
200.	Broadway Baptist Church, Olive Branch	1214.00
201.	First Baptist Church, Leakesville	1210.84
202.	Plainway Baptist Church, Laurel	1209.00
203.	Sallis Baptist Church, Sallis	1205.00
204.	Friendship Baptist Church, Biloxi	1204.49
205.	Trinity Baptist Church, Fulton	1200.00
206.	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Florence	1200.00
207.	First Baptist Church, Nettleton	1198.50
208.	Crenshaw Baptist Church, Crenshaw	1185.00
209.	Derma Baptist Church, Derma	1182.90
210.	Beulah Baptist Church, Myrtle	1175.00
211.	First Baptist Church, Yazoo City	1173.00
212.	Second Baptist Church, Greenville	1163.00
213.	Philipp Baptist Church, Philipp	1162.84
214.	Russell Baptist Church, Meridian	1160.75
215.	Pheba Baptist Church, Pheba	1160.50
216.	Belden Baptist Church, Belden	1155.00
217.	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Meridian	1141.00
218.	Friendship Baptist Church, Brookhaven	1140.00
219.	Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, Sandhill	1136.15
220.	Pilgrim's Rest BC, Crystal Springs	1132.00
221.	Kolola Springs Baptist Church, Caledonia	1125.00
222.	Georgetown Baptist Church, Georgetown	1114.00
223.	East Pleasant Grove BC, Quitman	1108.00
224.	Mt. Zion Baptist Church-DeSoto, Hernando	1101.82
225.	Central Baptist Church, McComb	1101.00
226.	Wynndale Baptist Church, Terry	1100.00
227.	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, West	1100.00
228.	Evergreen Baptist Church, Louisville	1100.00
229.	First Baptist Church, Foxworth	1095.05
230.	First Baptist Church, Tupelo	1090.09
231.	Sturgis Baptist Church, Sturgis	1086.30
232.	East Forest Baptist Church, Forest	1083.73
233.	Valley Grove Baptist Church, Tupelo	1077.70
234.	Calvary Baptist Church, Bogue Chitto	1067.00
235.	Bucaturra Baptist Church, Meridian	1064.66
236.	Berea Baptist Church, McCool	1053.17
237.	First Baptist Church, Canton	1053.00
238.	New Hope Baptist Church, Meridian	1050.00
239.	Pace Baptist Church, Pace	1050.00
240.	Cold Springs Baptist Church, Collins	1027.00
241.	Hillcrest Baptist Church, New Albany	1026.00
242.	Arm Baptist Church, Silver Creek	1019.78
243.	Central Baptist Church, Brookhaven	1019.45
244.	Slayden Baptist Church, Lamar	1017.00
245.	Leaf Baptist Church, Leaf	1000.00
246.	Hopewell Baptist Church, McCool	1000.00
247.	Salem Baptist Church, Raymond	1000.00
248.	Pine Grove Baptist Church, Picayune	1000.00

CHILDREN'S PAGE



Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Barry Logan. I go to Parker Baptist Church in Bruce, Miss. My hobbies are hunting, fishing, basketball, football, baseball, and six tracks. My age is 10.

Your friend,
Barry Logan
Rt. 4, Box 174A
Water Valley, MS 38965

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Michael Anthony Morgan. I am a member of Parker Baptist Church in Bruce, Miss. My hobbies are hunting, football, baseball, and riding my three-wheeler. I am 11 years old. I want a pen pal please.

Michael Anthony Morgan
Rt. 2, Box 63
Bruce, MS 38915

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Amanda Poindexter. I go to Parker Baptist Church in Bruce, Miss. My hobbies are riding my bike, collecting stickers,

and just playing dolls. My age is 10 years old. My address is Rt. 7, Box 184A Water Valley, MS 38965

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Dusty McKilben. I am a member of Parker Baptist Church in Bruce, Miss. My hobbies are hunting, riding my four-wheeler, playing football, basketball, and baseball. My age is 10.

Yours truly,
Dusty McKilben
Rt. 2, Box 73
Bruce, MS 38915

Dear Pen Pal Club:

I am 10 years old, and I go to Kirk Academy. I have accepted Jesus. I love animals, especially dogs and cats. I have five pets. My hobbies are swimming, basketball, and reading. I would like for you to be my pen pal! Write to:

Elizabeth Smith
141 Crosby Dr.
Grenada, MS 38901

"Jesus Loves Me..."

Mississippian makes difference through missions organizations

By Wally Poor

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay — When she was a child in Mission Friends in Mississippi, Paula Smith learned four things:

1. Jesus loves me.
2. Jesus loves all the little children of the world.
3. A lot of children don't know Jesus loves them.
4. I can tell them Jesus loves them.

Now, the first term missionary is encouraging Uruguayan Baptist churches to start missions organizations so children can learn what she did.

I'm a product of missions organizations. When I go to a church to promote the organizations, I just give my testimony," says the Carrollton, Miss., native.

When Paula arrived in Uruguay in 1990, she was a pioneer in two respects: she was the first single missionary appointed to Uruguay since the 1920s, and she was the first one appointed specifically to work with WMU in Uruguay.

The Executive Committee of the Uruguayan WMU asked Paula to especially work with children and youths.

As she visited the churches she found few had missions organiza-

tions.

She set to work, visiting every association and "nearly every church. I wanted to get to know the pastors and women leaders. I wanted to listen to them and know their needs and concerns."

At each visit, Paula presented WMU leaders with a book such as the WMU Manual, activity books, or books on missions.

"They were surprised by the visit and shocked to get books," she recalls.

"The interior people feel forgotten. They think, 'What's the use of belonging to something national when everything is centered in Montevideo?'" Paula says.

The Mississippian also started a WMU newsletter.

In time, she put together a team of missions organization promoters.

To promote Royal Ambassadors, she enlisted young Daniel Rangel, son of Brazilian Baptist missionaries Geraldo and Elvira Rangel. Daniel had started an RA chapter in the city of Durazno, where his father is pastor. He came to the newly-formed Baptist Church of the Coast and helped one of the young men of the church start a

chapter.

For Mission Friends, Paula tapped Aida Valenti, director of a thriving kindergarten and school in La Paz and for Girls in Action, Raquel Dos Santos, a Brazilian Baptist missionary.

In each church she visited, Paula offered to train leaders.

Usually in her visits, she goes accompanied by one or more of her promoters and members of the WMU Executive Committee. One of her closest collaborators is Monica de Silva, national WMU president. De Silva is serving her first term at the head of the organization, known in Uruguay by its Spanish initials DEFEMI (Departamento Femenil Misionero).

With Paula, starting missionary organizations is natural. When her father, the late Martin Smith, was called as pastor of the North Carrollton (Miss.) Church, there were no missions organizations there.

His wife Pauline set to work to start organizations and train leaders. The Smiths invited many missionaries to come to their church and entertained them in their home. Paula was exposed to missions but somehow got the idea that all women missionaries were school teachers.

She left Uruguay for furlough Dec. 15 and returned to Mississippi. During her second term, she hopes to develop some mission camps, perhaps using the Baptist farm run by missionary Chris Ingram.

Also in the future are some international meetings with Argentine and Paraguayan women and a meeting of the Latin American Baptist women's organization, UFBAL.

Because a 10-year-old Mississippi girl was willing to be whatever the Lord wanted, "even a teacher," many Uruguayan children and youths are learning about Jesus and how to share his love with others.

Poor is missionary press representative in Uruguay.

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Misty Harrison. I am 11 years old. My hobbies are reading, shopping, and collecting pencils. I go to Ephesus Baptist Church. If you would like to write to me, write to:

Misty Harrison
Rt. 1, Box 88
Forest, MS 39074

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Dustin Marsh. I go to West Corinth Baptist Church. I am 7 years old. My hobbies are playing baseball, football, drawing, and swimming. I would like to have a pen pal. My address is:

Rt. 1, Box 102
Corinth, MS 38834

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Nikki Avery. I turned 11 Jan. 29. I'm in the fifth grade. My hobbies are reading, dancing, listening to music, and swimming. Please write me and I'll write back.

Your friend,
Nikki Avery
76 Richardson Rd
Columbus, MS 39702

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My third grade class is presently studying "Writing Friendly Letters." Emily Crosby, a very resourceful student, brought to class a copy of the Jan. 7 Baptist Record and shared the "Pen Pal Club" section with the girls and boys who showed an immediate interest in wanting to write the ones listed in this column.

I am pleased and thankful to say because of this, students learned

the ethics of letter writing, and my teaching was made much more effective through this effort. Thanks to you for this kids section.

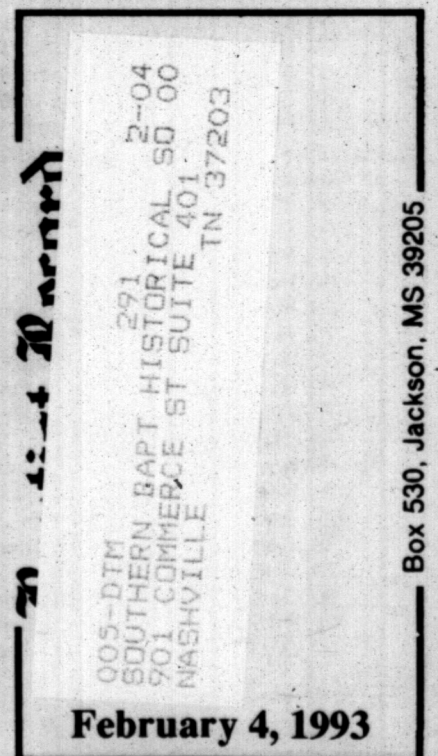
The girls and boys listed in the Pen Pal Club will receive lots of mail from Bogue Chitto-area third grade students. If your column permits, please print the enclosed students' names desiring to join your Pen Pal Club.

Sincerely,
Lillie M. Jackson
Third grade teacher

Below is the list of the students who requested a pen pal. The third line for all of the addresses is Bogue Chitto, MS 39629 unless otherwise noted.

Larry Jo Bracey Jr., P.O. Box 181; Carlos Brown, Rt. 3, Box 37-A; Ashley Carter, Rt. 2, Box 72-C; Charla Clark, Rt. 1, Box 16; LaQuinta Cook, Rt. 3, Box 184; Emily Crosby, Rt. 4, Box 9; Edward Dillon, Rt. 3, Box 12-B; Ronnye Gill, Rt. 2, Box 55; Briana Hall, Rt. 1, Box 302-J; Brittni Howard, Rt. 3, Box 122; Caleb Micheal McCaffery, Rt. 4, Box 38-A; Josh Melton, Rt. 2, Box 109; Brittany Moak, P.O. Box 361; Michelle Moak, Rt. 4, Box 71-B, Summit, MS 39666; Ashley Nicole Munn, Rt. 2, Box 288-B; Steven Reed, Rt. 3, Box 155-A; Anna Sasser, Rt. 3, Box 275;

Traci Sasser, Rt. 3, Box 244; Fredrick Dantrez Smith, Rt. 3, Box 184; John Wallace, Rt. 1, Box 181-C4; Tracy Wallace, Rt. 1, Box 2-K; and Hiedi Winborne, Rt. 3, Box 295-A.



February 4, 1993